

SUBJECT: Request for Permission to Pass Information
Contained in Department of State Reports.

1. This Agency several months ago prepared for internal use a study on the drive for legality by the Communist Party of Brazil.

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2. Permission to pass the following information, derived from Department of State reports and contained in the study, is hereby requested. In each specific instance, the excerpt from the text of the study is given in quotations, is preceded by an introductory phrase setting the context, and is followed by the reference citation.

With regard to the organizational changes taking place within the Brazilian Communist party:

"...Party organizational changes have been programmed and, in certain cases, already implemented. A significant number of the Party's clandestine components are being dismantled. In November Party leaders began to be detached from their organizations wherever possible and sent back to local areas, where they were best known, to begin pre-election organizational work. Many PCB leaders reportedly already had been assigned districts. This procedure was to be followed on a country-wide basis."

(Sao Paulo Weekly Summary #20; Desp.169;
14 November 1957)

Further:

"Some of the base organizations and enterprise committees may be reorganized as 'Popular Democratic Committees', a form of organization used

during the period of PCB legality (1945-1947). The Party expects these groups to be able to infiltrate other non-Communist political groups during the electoral campaign. In this manner, they may be permitted to become integral parts of legally-operating political parties and operate under the aegis of outwardly non-Communist organizations."

(Sao Paulo Weekly Summary #21; Desp.190;
29 November 1957)

With regard to the Party's labor activities and its participation in the First National Labor Congress in Rio de Janeiro during 29-30 March 1958:

"However, anti-Communist tactics to a considerable degree were successful at the Conference, which was designed primarily to steal the thunder of the Communist drive for legitimate labor objectives such as a single national labor confederation and improvements in laws dealing with the right to strike, minimum wages, and social security."

(Rio de Janeiro Joint Weeka #14; Desp.1098;
4 April 1958)

With regard to the announcement of the new Party line:

"While reiterating that the primary goal of the Party remained the freeing of Brazil from 'North American imperialists' and their Brazilian 'entreguista' allies (those who wish to turn over the country to foreign interests), the Central Committee asserted that this could be accomplished

now through legal and constitutional channels
with the establishment of a 'united front' of all
nationalist groups for the forthcoming elections."
(Rio de Janeiro Joint Weeka #12; Desp.1050;
21 March 1958)

With regard to the Party's electoral maneuvers:

"Party leaders at all levels are stressing the
national as well as local importance of the
forthcoming elections and have urged intensive
Communist activity therein. They stress also
the importance of registration of voters,
exhorting their followers to make sure of their
own registration and that of members of their
families and of friends, as well as to organize
and participate in a campaign to register voters
in each municipality and place of work or
residence."

(Rio de Janeiro Joint Weeka #9; Desp. 938;
28 February 1958)

Further:

"In Sao Paulo Communists reportedly have gone
so far as to place a price of 50 million cruzeiros
(\$375,000) on PCB support, although the price
has now been reduced to 30 million cruzeiros with
still no takers."

(Rio de Janeiro Joint Weeka #22; Desp.1378;
29 May 1958)

Further:

"They [Brazilian Communists] have singled out,
in the order of exploitative potentiality, the

Brazilian Labor Party (PTB), the Social Democratic Party (PSD), the National Democratic Union (UDN), the Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB) and the Social Progressive Party (PSP). "
(Rio de Janeiro; Desp.1060; 25 March 1958)

Further:

"The Brazilian Labor Party, at the convention of its Federal District section (Rio de Janeiro), has nominated several well-known Communists as candidates for federal deputies and city councilmen. "
(Rio de Janeiro Joint Weeka #22; Desp.1378; 29 May 1958)

Further:

"In Sao Paulo, Communist leaders who formerly had thought of participating in the leftist Popular Nationalist Front, have received instructions from the Party Presidium to back the winning candidate, whoever he might be. "
(Sao Paulo Weekly Summary; Desp. 372; 18 April 1958)

With regard to pressure directed at legislatures and the fact that some politicians preparing for the October 1958 elections were viewing favorably the granting of legal status to the Party and amnesty for its leaders:

"Representative of this was the Sao Paulo Legislative Assembly's unanimous approval on 22 November 1957 of a motion favoring political freedom for PRESTES. The motion,

formulated by Deputy Cid FRANCO of the Brazilian Socialist Party, who frequently echoes the Communist line, called for a 'solidarity vote for...PRESTES, a private citizen deprived of the individual rights and guarantees assured by the Federal Constitution not only to Brazilians but also to foreigners living in the country.' "

(Sao Paulo Weekly Summary #21; Desp.190;
29 November 1957)

Further:

"Earlier in the Sao Paulo Municipal Chamber, on 20 November, a petition requesting that two aldermen be formally selected 'as criminal lawyers to join the legal team that will defend Luiz Carlos PRESTES in the public justice' was approved."

(Sao Paulo Weekly Summary #20; Desp.179;
22 November 1957)

Further:

"The Municipal Chamber of Campinas, according to O Estado de Sao Paulo on 5 December, with only one dissenting vote passed a petition declaring its sympathy for PRESTES 'who has a preventive arrest order outstanding against him for political reasons.' "

(Sao Paulo Weekly Summary #22; 6 December
1957)

With regard to PRESTES' return to public life and his political emergence in several well-calculated stages:

"Outstanding among these has been the well-coordinated campaign in which the sob-story of his daughter's return to Brazil was fed to the principal newspapers and magazines which, almost without exception, were completely taken in by the human interest angle."

(US Emb. Rio de Janeiro; Desp. 653;
16 December 1957)

With regard to PRESTES activities after surfacing:

"He has emphasized that Brazilian Communists have a right to work for legality of the PCB and that he considers it will be easier to work for the Party's legal status now that he is free and can 'become a candidate for some political position.' "

(Rio de Janeiro Joint Weeka #13; Desp. 1074;
28 March 1958)

Further:

"His emphasis on the 'indispensability' and 'inevitability' of relations with the Soviet bloc has prompted numerous press comments notable among which has been that of the pro-government daily O JORNAL which has commented:

'Thus there is being prepared the atmosphere for the resumption of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and afterwards, as an inevitable consequence, the return of the PCB to legality.' "

(Joint US Emb. and USIS Rio de Janeiro;
Desp. 1150; 15 April 1958)